

tained in Maryland was considered as one of the principles on which slavery rested. It was thought that the testimony of the slave would impair his proper subordination to his master, and also that the master might, by his control over the minds of his slaves, affect their testimony so as to operate injuriously on the interests of others. It was a part, and as he believed, justly a part of the system of slavery. Slavery being gone, it is no part of policy or expediency to retain this principle in our system of government. The negro now comes back as any other man, and on the same footing in this respect. The legislation of Maryland now declares that interested parties are no longer excluded. If a party has all the interest on earth at stake, he is still at liberty to testify. The whole tendency of modern legislation seems to be to wipe out all obstructions to the admission of testimony, leaving it to the jury to judge of the credibility of witnesses. The power to discriminate between the false and the true is entirely within the province of the judge and the jury. No harm can be done either to the white or the colored man, provided the tribunal which is to judge be composed of white men. He (Mr. C.) did not advocate the admission of negro testimony for the sake of expediency, or with a view to conciliation, but for the simple reason that he conceived it to be right.

Mr. Nelson took issue with Mr. Carter, denying that the question at issue was whether the negro should testify in our courts. The negro was never considered as part and parcel of the people of this country. The speaker referred to the opinion of Judge Taney, in the Dred Scott decision, that the "terms of the constitution of the United States, as to the rights of man and the rights of the people, were not intended to include the negro." If this be so, was he entitled, as of right, to the rights appertaining exclusively in this country to the white race? Already the Legislature has the power to give the negro this privilege; or, if this is not sufficient, declare this power in some other part of the fundamental law, but not in the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Alvey asked that gentlemen should not wander from the subject. The naked proposition was, whether negroes shall testify. He did not think the article under